

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 1, 2005, Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Objection to the Drawings

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (the "Office") objected to FIG. 2. Reference numeral "38" has been removed, and a replacement FIG. 2 sheet is enclosed.

Objection to the Specification

The Office objected to a drawing description. Paragraph [0009] has been amended to state "FIGS. 5A and 5B are schematics ~~is a schematic~~ illustrating various means for supporting the apparatus." Examiner King is thanked for the keen eye.

The Office also objected to some reference numerals. Paragraph [0013] has been amended to "The open end 38 of the slot 36 slides in between the adjoining links ~~18 and 38~~ of the chain 20." Examiner King is again thanked for the keen eye.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,630,610 to Lock. Claim 1, however, has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter, and claims 4 and 5 maintain their dependency. The rejection is thus moot.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 2, 3, 11, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious. These claims, however, have been amended to now depend from allowable subject matter, so the rejections are moot.

Allowable Claims

Examiner King indicates that claims 6-9 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten. Claim 1, then has been amended to incorporate the features previously recited in claim 13. Claims 1-12, then, are in a condition for allowance.

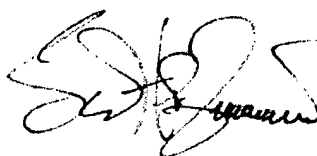
The newly presented claims are also allowable. New independent claim 14 is similar to claim 1 but includes features recited in allowable claim 6. Claims 14-16 are thus allowable. New independent claim 17 is similar to claim 1 but includes features recited in allowable claim 7. Claims 17-20 are thus also allowable. Thus, all the pending claims are ready for allowance.

No Excess Claim Fees

No excess claims are due. The total number of claims is twenty (20), and three (3) independent claims are presented. No fees are due.

If any issues remain outstanding, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at (919) 387-6907 or scott@scottzimmerman.com.

Respectfully submitted,



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